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COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

Letter dated 23 June 1994 from the Chairman of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the President of the Economic and Social Council

As Chairman of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held at Vienna from 13 to 22 April 1994, I should like to refer to General Assembly resolution 48/12 and the request to the Economic and Social Council that this year the Council's coordination segment examine the status of international cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in order to recommend ways and means to improve such cooperation.

In this connection, I have the honour to annex a list of elements that have emerged as a result of my preliminary consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups in Vienna during the thirty-seventh session of the Commission. As indicated in my closing statement of the session, such elements could usefully be considered by the Council's coordination segment with a view to encouraging the universally desired intensification of coordination within the United Nations system in the field of drug abuse control with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the lead agency as decided by the General Assembly.

I trust you will agree that, in view of the alarming and threatening dimensions of the drug abuse phenomenon affecting countries in all regions and at all levels of development, and taking into account the vital role entrusted to the United Nations in this field, it would be relevant and useful to have a

clear and resounding pronouncement on the part of the Council regarding the importance of intensified coordination and more active support throughout the United Nations system.

I should like to assure you of my readiness to be of any assistance that might be necessary in this respect.

(Signed) See-Young Lee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Chairman of the thirty-seventh session
of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Annex

SOME ELEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS COORDINATION SEGMENT

1. The governing bodies of all United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and funds, as well as the regional commissions, should be urged to include the issue of drug control in their agendas with a view to: (a) examining how their operational and development activities could better integrate the drug control dimension; (b) assessing the activities undertaken to comply with the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control; (c) reporting on how the drug control issues are taken into account in the relevant programmes.

2. The governing bodies of all relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system should be called upon to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated for the further development and implementation of drug control activities designed in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in its capacity as the lead agency in the field of international drug control.

3. The need for greater focus on national and regional strategies for drug abuse control should be stressed and the Programme should be urged to support Governments in their development of comprehensive and balanced drug control plans using, whenever appropriate, the expertise and resources of relevant organizations of the system.

4. The international and regional financial institutions, in particular, should be called upon to give special attention in their own programmes, to activities aimed at combating money-laundering and in areas where illicit narcotics cultivation takes place, to sustainable alternative development schemes, and to undertake, in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, drug-oriented research activities, particularly with a view to assessing the economic and social impact of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse.

5. The governing bodies of all relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system should be urged to strengthen their strategies for comprehensive, integrated programmes in the prevention, reduction and elimination of illicit demand, with particular emphasis on treatment, rehabilitation, information and educational campaigns to reduce demand.

6. The need for expanded cooperation among the agencies and entities of the United Nations system at the country and regional levels should be stressed to ensure that shared goals and objectives translate into agreed strategies and approaches to deal with the problem of drug abuse through coordinated operational activities in the context of the System-Wide Action Plan.

7. All agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, should be urged to intensify their efforts in promoting the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse covering the years 1991-2000.

8. The decision of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy to include the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as an observer should be welcomed and member organizations should be called upon to ensure that efforts at harmonizing the programming and planning cycle of development activities fully incorporate the drug control dimension.

9. United Nations Development Programme Resident Representatives, in their capacity as representatives of the Programme, should be encouraged to promote synergy of drug control activities at the field level among the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, through appropriate mechanisms such as inter-agency working groups, and to ensure that coherent action emerges through relevant planning and programming tools.

10. The Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, should be requested to galvanize the response of the United Nations system in connection with the forthcoming consideration of the drug control issue by the Committee.

11. The United Nations agencies should be requested to include in future reports to their governing bodies explicit reference to concrete actions taken and achievement attained in the implementation of these elements.